Peer Observation Process

For the Cascadia and NSD Math Partnership

Prebrief:

1. Host teacher gives background, context for the work, and presents lesson, including the focus question.
2. Host takes clarifying questions.
3. Observers take a few minutes to think about what they will be looking for during their observation as it relates to the focus. Participants share out these intentions.

Observation:

1. Participants take notes, script based on the focus questions, catch student and teacher dialogue, and generate questions.

Notes are critical to the quality of the feedback that teachers receive after a lesson is observed. The notes should be objective, documenting what the teacher and the students have said and done. Judgment is reserved; the notes are simply what is seen and heard. If possible, scripts of what students or the teacher have said verbatim can be helpful.

Debrief:

1. Participants look through their notes in order to prepare for the discussion.
2. Each observer shares with the host teacher in a “whip around” what they saw and heard in relation to the focus question.
3. The host teacher responds by thinking aloud about what s/he has heard and explores next steps to try.
4. The forum can move into open discussion, with a focus on asking probing questions. These questions should move the group away from the host teacher’s lesson, and towards a deeper conversation about pedagogy.

Reflection:

1. Instructors engage in reflection about the experience through email with the cohort facilitators and at future cohort meetings.